The data are in. Regardless of the causes, our global climate is changing. It seems every day we hear about increased flooding, droughts becoming more severe, winter storms more extreme, tornadoses more destructive, and wildfires more intense. Is this the “new normal”? If so, how can we, as practitioners in the arena of hazard mitigation, prepare our communities and future generations to not only be safer but thrive in these changing conditions? Fortunately, there are many people exploring and implementing ways to prepare our residents, their homes, their businesses, their neighborhoods, and their communities to become more resilient and sustainable through innovative Disaster Risk Reduction and climate adaptation practice. The 2015 International Hazard Mitigation Practitioner’s Symposium offers practitioners an opportunity to hear from some of the leading voices and communities in the world discussing a variety of hazards.

We plan to comply with the formal definition of a symposium: a social gathering at which there is free interchange of ideas. Welcome all.
Wednesday, July 22, 2015

3:00 pm – 7:00 pm  Registration  Interlocken D
(NHC Workshop attendees are preregistered)

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm  Welcome and Opening Comments  Centennial E
Ed Thomas, President, NHMA

4:15 pm – 4:45 pm  Keynote Speaker—Bryna Lipper, Vice President for
Relationships
100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation

4:45 pm – 6:00 pm  Joint IRCD/NHMA Session  Interlocken A/B
Disaster Risk Reduction briefing
Ed Thomas, Esq., President, NHMA

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm  Reception with IRCD attendees  Lobby Court/Terrace

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm  Dinner with the speakers:
- Sallie Clark, President, National Association of Counties
- Roy Wright, FEMA Deputy Associate, Administrator for Mitigation

Gordon Biersch Brewing Company, 1 West Flatiron Crossing (Flatirons Crossing Mall)

Thursday, July 23, 2015

8:00 am—3:00 pm  Registration  Centennial Foyer
Continental Breakfast/Networking

8:30 am – 10:00 am  Resilient Cities  Centennial E
New problems demand new solutions. This is particularly true for local leaders who are being challenged to not
only reduce today’s hazard risks but to also prepare for those anticipated to get worse in the future. To help
meet these demands and promote more resilient and sustainable communities, the Rockefeller Foundation
launched its 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) initiative in 2013. This session brings together leading practitioners
from some of the world’s first 100RC cities representing three different regions of the United States, each facing unique hazards and their own physical, social, and economic challenges, but all sharing the common goal of
becoming a safer and truly resilient city.

Moderator: Darrin Punchard, AICP, CFM, Hawksley Consulting
Speakers: Arrietta Chakos, Urban Resilience Policy Advisor, Association of Bay Area Governments, CA
Greg Guibert, Chief Resiliency Officer: City of Boulder, CO
James Redick, Director, Department of Emergency Preparedness & Response, City of Norfolk, VA

Unless otherwise posted, all sessions will be on Webinar.
Insurance plays a vital role in managing the risk of natural hazards, as well as in the economic recovery of communities following a disaster. The tremendous growth in population in recent decades has resulted in more people being exposed to the impacts of natural hazards, necessitating the ability to understand and mitigate the impacts. This session will discuss how catastrophe insurance works, its role in natural hazard mitigation and recovery, and the value and growth of risk assessment modeling within the industry.

**Moderator:** Kirsten Orwig, Ph.D., SwissRe  
**Speakers:** Michael Cohen, RenaissanceRe  
Brandon Katz, Ph.D., JL Towers Re

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**10:00 am—10:15 am**  
**BREAK**

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**10:15 am – 11:45 am**  
**Structural Vulnerability – Warding off the 3 UGLIES**  
**Earthquake, Flood and Fire**  
**Centennial E**

With the advent of ASCE-24-5 Flood Resistant Design and Construction, 2015 International Building Code® (IBC) and the 2015 International Residential Code® (IRC) and the management of structural end-user protection expectations, public officials and mitigation practitioners are being asked more frequently for technical guidance on resilience to this triad. The panel will focus on Structural Vulnerability for Earthquakes, Flood, and Wildfire/Urban Interface issues that affect Residents, Businesses, Critical Facilities (Private and Public Sectors) and Public Facilities. The Panel will discuss real-world Good and Bad Practices encountered, specific vulnerabilities and the always embraced Regulations, Guidance and Building Codes and possible solution resources. The flood content will include Nature Based Coastal Solutions and resilient Alternate Sites for COOP and Business Recovery will be discussed as applicable. There will be plenty of time for Question and Answers for those “politically incorrect” questions and comments you always wanted to get off your chest in this no-fault seminar.

**Moderator:** Tom Hughes, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency  
**Speakers:** Randy Behm, PE, United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Mai (Mike) Tong, National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP), FEMA  
Clark Woodward, RedZone Software

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**10:15 am – 11:45 am**  
**Earthquake Risk Mitigation,**  
**A Bridge Between Policy and Engineering**  
**Spruce**

Join us for an interactive discussion on how policy and engineering can develop together to bring progress on seismic resilience of both individuals and society. The panelists will present a new vision for strategic collaboration between the technical and policy worlds to better assist individuals, organizations, and communities in understanding and managing their natural disaster risks. The presentation will highlight, as an example, preliminary results of a California Earthquake Authority study investigating the performance of single-family dwellings during the August 24, 2014 South Napa earthquake, the findings of which can contribute to improving behavior motivation programs, engineering practices, and disaster policy broadly.

**Moderators:** Janiele Maffei, California Earthquake Authority  
Sharyl Rabinovici, Ph.D., Consultant
Thursday, July 23, 2015

11:45 am—1:00 pm LUNCH
Outdoor Pavilion

1:00 pm—2:30 pm Understanding and Responding to the New Normal
Centennial E

As the field of hazard mitigation continues to evolve and grow to respond to the ever changing landscape, it is crucial to understand the depth and range of the issues and factors that intersect when we understand and respond to the new normal. Our speakers come from a diverse array of sectors, providing a discourse on the new normal that will address drought and other weather-based dynamics, how a local government balances existing stressors with emerging threats, then weaving in the knowledge learned from a global adaption index that helps development leaders manage risks, and finally providing a perspective of federal priorities to assist decision makers working toward a better baseline for action.

Moderator: Matt Sitkowski, Ph.D., The Weather Channel
Speakers: Bob Henson, Ph.D., Weather Underground
Vicki Bennett, City of Salt Lake City, UT
Joyce Coffee, ND-GAIN
Kevin Nelson, AICP, Environmental Protection Agency

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Crafting and Designing Programs by Practitioners for a Safer Future
Spruce

As a Nation we may never have had a greater opportunity to seriously consider how to reduce the mounting toll of devastation which so often follows foreseeable natural events. The passion and energy of those who believe in the reality of climate change brings an entire new breath of oxygen into conversations about what sort of future we will build for the next generations. As a Nation, we are building the future every day: one cubic yard of fill at a time, one building at a time, and one road at a time. Demographics will drive development in our Nation and the World. In the US fully one half of the development we will see in 2050 does not exist today. We have a choice: we can build safely and properly so as to not exacerbate existing problems caused by improper construction and development; or we can continue to do business as usual and build an unsustainable future of misery, waste and needless destruction. Right now we are clearly on the path of mounting losses from foreseeable natural events. Developing a Resilient society requires a win–win “Whole Community” approach based on sound economic principles so that communities, folks who would otherwise be disaster victims, developers, and sound Disaster Risk Reduction all win. Such solutions have the advantage of being based on sound economics, law, ethics, and environmental sustainability. We have a huge sales job to do to change the current development and redevelopment mind-set. Implementing the needed solutions will require a different way of doing business than community development practices in general use in the United States. We must seize every opportunity to insert a message of safe and resilient development into all conversations about climate change, climate uncertainty, housing, community development, planning, national security, love of family, love of country. We must also recognize that our sales job must be made to the many powerful and influential decision makers who may be more inclined to look for quick returns on investment now, with future costs externalized to other parties.

Our sales message of public safety & safe and resilient development and redevelopment must be delivered in an apolitical manner, crafted in a different manner to reach the hopes, fears, desires, and dreams of the various audiences which comprise our “Whole Community.” As part of that sales, job in addition to recognizing the positive economic aspects of our message, we must also recognize the very real impediments to a safer more Resilient future."

Moderator: Ed Thomas, Esq., NHMA
Speakers: Matt Campbell, FEMA
Jason Vogel, Ph.D., ABT Associates
Katie Skakel, CFM, NHMA
Wildfires and floods have a unique relationship in the hazards world. One disaster frequently follows the other, leaving behind more devastating impacts to communities still in response and recovery mode. What are the lessons learned from communities who have either experienced the fire-flood disasters and/or are preparing themselves to mitigate future potential impacts? This session will bring practitioner perspectives from the western U.S. to share insights, best practices, and creative funding solutions to encourage other communities in addressing the fire-flood connection and reducing future damage.

Moderator: Molly Mowery, Wildfire Planning International
Speakers: Brian Varrella, PE, Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers
Tim Mitros, PE, City of Colorado Springs
Vance Fossinger, PE, Wilson & Company
Mark Brehl, City of Flagstaff, AZ

Thank you for attending the 2015 International Hazard Mitigation Practitioner’s Symposium. Your comments and feedback will help us in planning next year’s Symposium. Please take a few moments to take our survey.

Visit NHMA.org to access the survey.
The Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA) would like to thank the following sponsors and supporting partners:

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“Mitigation makes communities and people safer from disasters.”